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Whitehall, April 24, 1781.

EXTRACT of a Letter from the Hon. Major-General Vaughan, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in the Leeward Islands, to Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, brought by Captain Nicolls, of the Royal Regiment of Foot, who arrived in His Majesty's Ship Venus from St. Eustatius.

St. Eustatius, March 18, 1781.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the Pleasure to inform your Lordship, that since I had the Honour of writing to you on the 5th Instant, the Colony of Demarary and the River Essequebo have, in consequence of a Summons made by Two of His Majesty's Sloops of War, commanded by Captains Day and Pindar, submitted to His Majesty's Arms. The Terms which the Admiral and myself have thought proper to grant them for the present, I have the Honour to inclose your Lordship.

I have the Honour further to inform your Lordship, that having sent Lieutenant-Colonel Ferguson to the Island of St. Bartholomew, that Island immediately surrendered to His Majesty's Protection; a Copy of which, with the Return of the Ordnance found there, I have the Honour to transmit your Lordship.

COPY.

Sandwich, St. Eustatius, March 14, 1781.

WE the General Officers and Commanders in Chief of His Britannick Majesty's Forces in the West Indies, do, in His Royal Name, demand an immediate Surrender of the Island of St. Bartholomew, with all its Dependencies.

The Inhabitants of the Island on taking the Oaths of Allegiance, will be permitted to remain in full Possession of their Property, and be received as Subjects under the Protection of the British Crown, till His Majesty's Pleasure is known.

(Signed.) G. B. RODNEY.
J. VAUGHAN.

(COPY.)

St. Bartholomew, March 15. 1781.

WHEREAS Colonel Ferguson and Captain Græme have demanded an immediate Surrender of this Island in the Name of His Britannick Majesty, by Order of their Excellencies Sir George Brydges Rodney, Bart. K. B. and the Honorable General Vaughan, Commanders in Chief of His Majesty's Fleets and Armies in the West-Indies;—WE, the Governor and principal Inhabitants of the Island of St. Bartholomew, do accordingly deliver up the said Island to the Arms of Great Britain, and do declare ourselves Subjects thereof, relying upon the Justice and Humanity of the Commanders in Chief for Protection.

GOD save King GEORGE.

RETURN of the Ordnance found on the Island of St. Bartholomew, when taken Possession of the 15th of March, 1781.

(COPY.)

One Eighteen-pounder.
Two Nine-pounders. } All French.
Two Four-pounders.

And Seven others in different Parts of the Island.

(Signed) D. SANXAY,
Assistant Dep. Adj. General.

Admiralty-Office, April 24, 1781.

CAPTAIN Balfour arrived this Morning with Dispatches from Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, to Mr. Stephens, of which the following are Copy and Extract.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot to Mr. Stephens, dated Royal Oak, in Lynn-haven Bay, March 20, 1781.

MY Letter of the 15th ult. by the Mercury Pacquet will have acquainted their Lordships with the Loss of the Culloden, and Dismasture of the Bedford, in a Gale of Wind on the 23d of January, at the East End of Long Island, and of the Absence of the America, which at that Time was driven to Sea, but returned without Damage on the 8th ult.

In the mean while every possible Exertion was made to get the lower Masts out of the Culloden, for the Bedford; but the Weather was so exceedingly severe and tempestuous, that it was not effected until the 1st Instant.

The Enemy deriving Courage and Confidence from these Misfortunes, at one Time, during the Absence of the America, and believing that the Bedford also was lost, meditated an Attack upon us, which however they laid aside, after their Emissaries had reconnoitred our Position in Gardiner's Bay.

An Attempt was next made against our Naval Force employed to co-operate with Brigadier-General Arnold in Virginia. I received early Intimation of their Intentions, and accordingly put these Officers upon their Guard. This was to have been executed by the Eveillé, a coppered 64, and Two Frigates which sailed from Rhode Island on the 8th of February; but finding it impossible to succeed in that Quarter, left it on the 19th following.

I had, on the Communication of this Intelligence, dispatched the Charlestown to Carolina, to order the Chatham, (of whose Arrival I had been informed) with the Roebuck, Romulus, and some Frigates, to proceed to Virginia, and endeavour to cut off their Return; which, however, was rendered abortive by the Shortness of their Stay. I am sorry to add, that they fell in with and captured the Romulus on their Passage back off the Capes of Virginia, as she was proceeding thither from Charlestown to relieve the Charon; having sailed, in consequence of a prior Engagement, before the Charlestown could reach her.

It was now necessary, from the Discontents in the Rebel Army, and among the Minds of the People, to attempt something to revive a drooping Cause; the Danger of Virginia from the enterprizing Spirit of Brigadier-General Arnold, had he been strengthened, which was likely to happen, must become imminent; the Plan therefore, adopted by the Rebels and their Allies, was by a combined Operation to attack him, and, by reducing him and his Detachment, to set at Liberty the whole Force of the Southern Provinces, to act against Lord Cornwallis in Carolina. The Parties from Mr. Washington's Army, under the Marquis de Fayette, were to proceed down the Elk by the Way of Maryland; whilst a large Body of Virginian Militia, under a Mr Nelson in this Colony, were collecting to attack him in Concert with the French Troops commanded by the Count de Rochambault. I had the Honor to give Information of these Designs to Sir Henry Clinton at New York; and as my Intelligence from

[Price Three-Pence Halfpenny.]

from Rhode Iſland was frequently and accurately repeated, the Objects for the Service of the Squadron became clear and open to my View.

The Seaſon the Enemy choſe to execute this Meaſure was while the Bedford was remaſting. The lower Maſts of the Culloden having been brought into Gardiners Bay, ſhe hauled alongſide the London, and got them in on the 5th Inſtant, and was compleatly rigged and ready for Sea the 9th.

The Enemy, I preſume, were very ſoon apprized of the Bedford being entirely ſtripped, and conceiving this Work would take up a conſiderable Time, began to embark Troops on the 5th: By the 8th near 2000 of their Troops were put on Board the Squadron, which had been previouſly prepared in other Reſpects, and puſhed to Sea with a ſtrong Eaſterly Gale the Evening of the ſame Day.

On the 9th the Whole of His Majeſty Squadron under my Command fell down to the Entrance of Gardiners Bay; and the next Morning, juſt before I weighed, I received corroborative Information from Sir Henry Clinton, that very conſiderable Detachments were ſending to the Southward from Mr. Waſhington's Army; but his Excellency did not appear to have any immediate Idea of reinforcing Brigadier-General Arnold with Troops. Suppoſing, however, that he might afterwards judge it neceſſary, as his Situation would become extremely critical, I directed Capt. Hudſon of the Richmond, the ſenior Officer at New York, to take his Excellency's Sentiments on the Subject; and, ſhould it be deemed proper, to take under his Convoy the Troops that might be ſent to aid thoſe already employed in Virginia; but, ſhould his Excellency think ſuch Relief unneceſſary, he was to join me off the Cheſeapeak with the Richmond, Orpheus, and any others of His Majeſty's Ships that might arrive at New York in the Interim.

On the 10th I cleared the Coaſt of Long Iſland with the Squadron, and proceeded to the Southward as expeditiouſly as poſſible, in the Hope of being able to fight the Enemy before their Entry to the Cheſeapeak, or, if practicable, to attack them there.

On the 13th, in Lat. 39:30 North, within a few Leagues of the Coaſt, I ſpoke a Veſſel from London for New York, which had ſeen the French Squadron the Day before a Degree to the Southward, conſiſting of Eight Sail of large Ships, Three Frigates, and a Tender. I parted from her the ſame Evening, and ſteered ſuch a Courſe as would beſt enable me to intercept it.

The ſame Evening a Gale from the N. W. was exceedingly favorable to the Purſuit, and puſhed the Squadron on; its Violence however appears by the Event to have equally retarded the Enemy, which muſt have lain to while it laſted.

On the 16th at Six A. M. the Iris made the Signal for diſcovering Five ſtrange Sail to the N. N. E. and ſoon afterwards hailed, that they were large Ships ſteering for the Capes of Virginia, and ſuppoſed to be diſtant about Three Miles. I immediately concluded it muſt be the Enemy I was in Search of, and accordingly prepared the Squadron for Battle, by forming the Line a-head a Cable's Length aſunder, on a Wind which was then freſh, and proceeding towards them with a Preſs of Sail: At this Time Cape Henry bore S. W. by W. diſtant about 14 Leagues, Wind at Weſt; the French bearing from us N. N. E. the Weather ſo hazy that the Length of the Britiſh Line could ſcarcely be diſcerned.

At a Quarter of an Hour after Eight A. M. the Wind veered to N. W. by W. and ſoon after to N. by W. which gave the Enemy the Advantage of the Weather-gage. About this Time ſeveral of the Enemy's Ships were diſcovered to Windward, manœuvring to form their Line.

At 25 Minutes after Eight, the Guadulupe ranged up under our Lee, bringing the ſame Intelligence with that already given by the Iris, and was ordered to make Sail, and endeavour to keep Sight of the Enemy.

At 35 Minutes after Eight I directed the Iris by Signal to make Sail a-head, and keep Sight of the Enemy, as the Haze appeared to thicken. The Britiſh Line was by this Time compleatly formed, and cloſe hauled on the Larboard Tack.

At 20 Minutes after Nine the Headmoſt of the French Ships tacked, as did the reſt in Succeſſion, and formed the Line on the Starboard Tack.

At 35 Minutes after Nine, the Weather being very ſqually, I formed the Line a-Head at two Cables Length aſunder.

At a Quarter of an Hour after Ten, I made the Signal for the Squadron to tack, the Headmoſt and Weathermoſt firſt, and gain the Wind of the Enemy.

At a Quarter of an Hour after Eleven, the Headmoſt of the French Line tacked; but one of them having miſſed Stays, the Reſt wore, and formed the Line on the Larboard Tack.

At 40 Minutes after Eleven, I re-formed my Line, at one Cable's Length aſunder.

At Twelve o'Clock there being a Proſpect of the Van of my Line reaching the Enemy, the Whole of my Line tacked by Signal, the Van firſt, and the leading Ship continuing to lead on the other Tack.

At Ten o'Clock the French Squadron having compleated their Form in a Line a-Head, conſiſting of Eight Two-Deckers, bore E. by S. the Britiſh Line cloſe hauled, ſteering E. S. E. Wind at N. E.

At Half an Hour after One o'Clock, the Enemy being very apprehenſive of the Danger and Inconvenience of engaging to Windward from the high Sea that was running, and ſqually Weather, wore and formed their Line to Leeward of the Britiſh Line.

At Two o'Clock the Van of my Squadron wore in the Line, and in a few Minutes the Robuſt which led the Fleet, and afterwards behaved in the moſt gallant Manner, was warmly engaged with the Van of the Enemy.—The Ships in the Van and Center of the Line were all engaged by Half an Hour paſt Two, and by Three o'Clock the French Line was broke; their Ships began ſoon after to wear, and to form their Line again, with their Heads to the South East into the Ocean.

At 20 Minutes after Three, I wore and ſtood after them. I was ſorry to obſerve the Robuſt, Prudent and Europe, which were the headmoſt Ships, and received the Whole of the Enemy's Fire at their Rigging as they bore down, ſo intirely diſabled, and the London's Main top-ſail-yard being carried away, (the Two firſt unmanageable, laying with their Heads from the Enemy) as to be incapable of Purſuit, and of rendering the Advantage we had gained deciſive.

At Half an Hour after Four the Haze came on ſo very thick, as entirely to intercept the Enemy from my View. The Medea joined me ſoon after, which I directed to follow, and obſerve the Rout of the Enemy, while I proceeded with the Squadron to the Cheſapeak, in the Hope of intercepting them, ſhould they attempt to get in there.

At Seven o'Clock I brought to with the Squadron, to put the diſabled Ships in a Situation to execute theſe Intentions.

Next Morning I made Sail, and the ſame Evening (the Robuſt being towed by the America, and the Prudent by the Adamant) anchored with the whole Squadron about Three Leagues to the Eaſtward of Cape Charles, within Cape Henry: The Evening after, the whole Squadron anchored in Lynne-haven Bay.

I cannot but regret the early Flight of the Enemy prevented the Action from becoming general.

I have had a Conference with Brigadier-General Arnold, and find his Force began to be preſt for Proviſion, as well as by the formidable Combination againſt him. Fayette's Continental Detachment is block'd up at Annapolis by His Majeſty's Sloops the Hope and General Monk. The Rebel Militia, diſaffected to the Service, will ſpeedily diſperſe; and the Count de Rochambault muſt ſeek another Opportunity of viſiting Virginia. The Plan of the Rebel Campaign is entirely diſconcerted; and I flatter myſelf theſe Events will be productive of very ſolid Advantages to His Majeſty's Service.

I have detached Frigates after the Enemy, and ſhall put to Sea immediately with the Squadron to follow their Movements, and bring them if poſſible

to

to a ſecond Action. In this firſt they muſt have loſt great Numbers of their Men, though their Rigging ſuffered little to Appearance.

I have the Honour to incloſe a Return of the Killed and Wounded, Liſt and Diſpoſition of the Squadron, and Line of Battle.

Captain Balfour, who is charged with the Delivery of this Letter, ſerved as a Volunteer for Six Weeks on Board of the Royal Oak, and was with me in the Day of Action.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

MT. ARBUTHNOT.

Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot to Mr. Stephens, dated Royal Oak in Lynne-haven Bay, March 30, 1781.

IN Continuation of my Letter of the 20th Inſtant, I have the Honour to acquaint you, that I put to Sea with the Squadron under my Command on the Morning of the 24th, and ſteered a Courſe for the Delaware, where it was conceived likely the Enemy might endeavour to take Refuge; but as the State of the Weather towards Noon appeared to indicate a Gale, which is generally expected at this Seaſon, I judged it adviſeable to return to the Bay, where I anchored the ſame Evening.

The next Day and the following we had the Wind from the Northward, which, had we been at Sea, muſt inevitably have crippled ſome of our Ships, or driven me very conſiderably to the Southward.

On the 26th a Reinforcement of Troops, in Number about Two Thouſand, commanded by Major General Philips, arrived from New-York, under the Eſcort of Captain Hudſon, of the Richmond, with the Ships and Veſſels named in the Margin*: At the ſame Time the Iris and Pearl, which had been detached to obſerve the Rout of the Enemy, returned without having diſcovered them; the former had ſprung her Main-Maſt in the late Gale.

The Medea was immediately diſpatched to reconnoitre the Delaware.

The Army under Major General Philips were immediately forwarded to Portſmouth; and the Junction effected between the Forces at preſent there under Brigadier General Arnold.

I wait with great Impatience to embrace the firſt Opportunity to put to Sea, which I ſhall ſeize the Moment it offers. For theſe laſt Two Days the Weather has been ſo ſqually, as to preclude all Communication by Boats between the Ships of the Squadron.

* Orpheus, Chatham, Savage, Halifax, Bonetta, Vulcan Fire-ſhip.

RETURN of the Killed and Wounded in the Action between the Britiſh and French Squadrons off the Capes of Virginia, March 16, 1781.

	Killed.	Wounded.
Robuſt —	15	21
Europe —	8	19
Prudent —	7	24
Royal Oak —	—	3
London —	—	3
Adamant —	—	—
Bedford —	—	—
America —	—	3
Total	30	73

OFFICER KILLED.

Hon. Lieutenant Lyttelton, of the Robuſt.

OFFICER WOUNDED.

Maſter of the America.

Royal Oak, Lynne-haven Bay, March 28, 1781.

MT. ARBUTHNOT.

LINE OF BATTLE.

THE America to lead with the Starboard, and the Robuſt to lead with the Larboard, Tacks on Board.

Frigates.	Rates.	Ships.	Names.	Guns.	Men.	
Guadaloupe.	3d	America	Captain Thompſon	64	500	
	—	Bedford	Captain Affleck	74	600	
	4th	Adamant	Captain Johnſton	50	350	
Pearl to repeat Signals.	2d	London	Rear-Admiral Graves, Captain Graves	98	768	Mariot Arbuthnot, Eſq; Vice-Admiral of the White, Commander in Chief.
	3d	Royal Oak	Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot, Captain Swiney	74	624	
	—	Prudent	Captain Burnett	64	500	
	—	Europe	Captain Child	64	500	
Iris.	—	Robuſt	Captain Coſby	74	600	

Given on Board His Majeſty's Ship the Royal Oak in Gardiners Bay, February 13, 1781.

MT. ARBUTHNOT.

A LIST of the French Ships compoſing the Enemy's Squadron on the 16th of March, 1781.

Ships Names.			N° of Guns.
Neptune (coppered)	—		84
Burgogne (coppered)	—		84
Conquerant	—	—	74
Provence	—	—	64
Ardent	—	—	64
Jaſon	—	—	64
Eveillé (coppered)	—		64
Romulus	—	—	40

Frigates. Hermione, Gentile, Fantaſque en Flute.

Royal Oak, Lynne-haven Bay, March 28, 1781.

MT. ARBUTHNOT.

St. James's, April 23.

This Day John Morin, Eſq; was, in virtue of His Majeſty's Reverſionary Grant, ſworn before the Earl of Hillſborough, One of His Majeſty Principal Secretaries of State, into the Office of One of the Clerks of His Majeſty's Signet, in the Room of Sir Joſeph Copley, Bart. deceaſed.

GEORGE *R.*

An ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION to all Ships of War and Privateers that have or may have Letters of Marque againſt the French King, the King of Spain, or (L. S.) *the States General of the United Provinces, their Vaſſals or Subjects, or others inhabiting within any of their Countries, Territories or Dominions, or againſt any other Enemies or Rebellious Subjects of the Crown of Great Britain. Given at Our Court at St. James's, the Twentieth Day of April, 1781, in the Twenty-firſt Year of Our Reign.*

WHEREAS We have ever been deſirous to prevent Interruption being given to the Trade and Commerce of every State in Amity with Us, as far as was compatible with the neceſſary Operations of War: And whereas it will tend very much to that Purpoſe, that the Trade and Navigation of the Baltic ſhould remain uninterrupted; We have